

**AQUEOUS INK COMPOSITION AND FORMATION OF IMAGE AND MAINTENANCE, AND MAINTAINING LIQUID**

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**Abstract**

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**PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:** To obtain an aqueous ink composition having excellent dispersion stability, not clogging nozzles, capable of being printed in a high concentration substantially without blotting, and giving printed products having improved water resistance and washing resistance.

**SOLUTION:** This aqueous ink composition is produced by adding (C) a component crosslinking with (A) a carboxyl group-having resin, preferably (D) an oxazoline group-having polymer, to an aqueous medium comprising at least water, pigment-colored resin particles coated with the resin A, and (B) a base. The method for forming an image comprises printing a substrate with the aqueous ink composition, and subsequently giving heat energy or generating heat in the ink to crosslink the printed ink. The method for maintaining the printed product comprises printing a substrate with the aqueous ink and subsequently maintaining the printed product with a maintaining liquid comprising an aqueous medium having pH 8-11.

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